What Is Delta Air Lines Pet Policy?

QUICK ANSWER:

Small dogs, cats, and household birds can fly in the Delta cabin in an approved carrier under the seat for $95 each way domestic and approximately $200 international. Larger pets travel via Delta Cargo. Trained service dogs fly free with DOT forms. Pet spots are limited per flight and require phone reservation. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 to book because pet reservations cannot be made online.

FLYING WITH A PET? Call Delta Airlines
+1➤855➤203➤2961 (Available 24/7 | Pet Reservations Are Phone-Only)
Press 0 to skip menu — pet spots are limited per flight
Best time: Tue-Wed 6-8 AM ET | Source: delta.com/pets

DELTA PET TRAVEL RULES AT A GLANCE:

1. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 to reserve a pet spot — cannot be booked online, spots are limited

2. Verify your carrier fits under the seat (approx 18x11x11 in, soft-sided best)

3. Get a health certificate from your vet within 10 days of travel

4. International: obtain USDA-endorsed health cert + destination import docs 30+ days out

5. Domestic in-cabin fee: $95 each way | International: $200 each way (varies)

6. Service dogs: submit DOT forms at least 48 hours before departure

7. Check breed restrictions — snub-nosed breeds restricted from cargo

8. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 with pet type, breed, weight, and carrier dimensions for booking

Can You Bring a Pet in the Cabin on Delta?

Yes, small dogs, cats, and household birds can travel in the cabin on Delta flights in an approved carrier that fits under the seat in front of you. The carrier dimensions must not exceed approximately 18x11x11 inches, though exact dimensions vary slightly by aircraft type. The pet must remain inside the carrier for the entire flight with the carrier stowed under the seat during taxi, takeoff, and landing. Only one pet carrier is allowed per passenger, and each flight has a limited number of pet spots. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 to reserve a pet cabin spot because pet bookings cannot be made through the website or app.

The in-cabin pet fee is $95 each way on domestic flights and approximately $200 each way on most international routes. The fee is charged per carrier, not per individual animal, so two small pets that fit

comfortably in one carrier together may travel for a single fee if the airline permits. Your pet carrier counts as either your carry-on or personal item depending on size. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and the agent confirms the fee, verifies your carrier dimensions for the specific aircraft, and reserves the spot.

What Pets Are Allowed in the Delta Cabin?

Delta accepts small dogs, cats, and small household birds in the cabin. The pet must be small enough to fit comfortably in an approved carrier under the seat, able to stand, turn around, and lie down inside the carrier. Puppies and kittens must be at least 10 weeks old for domestic travel and at least 16 weeks for international travel to meet vaccination requirements. Exotic animals, reptiles, amphibians, rodents, ferrets, and spiders are not permitted in the cabin or cargo. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and specify your pet type and breed for eligibility confirmation.

Household birds accepted in-cabin include small parakeets, cockatiels, and similar domestic bird species. The bird must travel in a covered, ventilated carrier that fits under the seat. Wild birds and large parrots may not be accepted. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and describe your bird species for specific eligibility determination.

What About Large Dogs That Do Not Fit Under the Seat?

Large dogs that cannot fit in an under-seat carrier are not allowed in the cabin as pets. They can travel via Delta Cargo, which is a separate pet shipping service with different pricing, requirements, and booking procedures. Delta Cargo requires an IATA-approved hard-sided crate appropriate for the dog's size, a USDA health certificate, and advance booking. The only exception for large dogs in the cabin is trained service dogs, which fly at no charge in the cabin regardless of size with proper DOT documentation. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for Delta Cargo pet shipping information or service dog accommodation.

Delta Cargo pet shipping is handled through delta.com/cargo or by calling the Delta Cargo customer service line, which is separate from the main reservation line at +1➤855➤203➤2961. However, calling +1➤855➤203➤2961 first can provide general guidance and direct you to the appropriate Cargo contact. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and the agent advises on the best path for your large dog's travel arrangements.

What Is Delta's Service Animal Policy?

Delta accepts trained service dogs at no charge in the cabin on all flights. The service dog must be individually trained to perform specific tasks for a person with a disability. Psychiatric service dogs that are task-trained also qualify. Emotional support animals are no longer accepted as of January 2021, aligning with updated DOT regulations. Service dog handlers must submit DOT service animal transportation forms at least 48 hours before departure. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 at least 48 hours before travel to ensure your service dog documentation is properly processed.

The required DOT forms include the U.S. Department of Transportation Service Animal Air Transportation Form, which the handler completes attesting that the dog is trained, vaccinated, and will behave appropriately. The form also includes a relief attestation confirming the dog can relieve itself or abstain for the flight duration. These forms are available at delta.com or from the agent when you call +1➤855➤203➤2961. Submit completed forms at least 48 hours before departure by emailing them to the address provided by the agent.

What Health Documents Does Your Pet Need?

For domestic in-cabin travel, your pet needs a current health certificate issued by a licensed veterinarian within 10 days of travel. The certificate confirms the pet is healthy and fit to fly. Current vaccination records including rabies must accompany the health certificate. For international travel, requirements are significantly more extensive and vary by destination country. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 at least 30 days before international pet travel to obtain the complete list of country-specific health and import requirements.

International pet travel typically requires a USDA-endorsed international health certificate obtained through a USDA-accredited veterinarian, current rabies vaccination with specific timing requirements that vary by country, a microchip meeting ISO 11784/11785 standards, an import permit from the destination country's agriculture authority, and possibly blood titer testing for rabies antibodies depending on the country. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and the agent provides a checklist specific to your destination country.

Are There Breed Restrictions on Delta?

Delta restricts certain brachycephalic (snub-nosed) breeds from cargo travel due to higher risk of respiratory distress at altitude. Restricted cargo breeds include Bulldogs (all types), Pugs, Boston Terriers, Pekingese, Shih Tzus, Lhasa Apsos, Boxers, and similar flat-faced breeds. These breeds may still travel in the cabin if they fit in an approved under-seat carrier, as cabin pressure and temperature are controlled for passenger comfort. Some destination countries have breed-specific import bans, particularly for breeds classified as dangerous. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and provide your pet's breed for complete restriction information.

Mixed-breed dogs with significant brachycephalic characteristics may also be restricted from cargo travel at Delta's discretion. If your dog has a flat face and shortened airway, discuss the breed with the agent at +1➤855➤203➤2961 before booking cargo travel. In-cabin travel in a pressurized cabin is the safer alternative for these breeds. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and describe your pet's breed and physical characteristics.

How Many Pets Are Allowed Per Flight?

Delta limits the number of pets in the cabin per flight, typically 2-4 depending on aircraft type and route. These spots are first-come, first-served and fill quickly, especially on popular routes during holiday travel periods. There is no way to check pet spot availability online. You must call +1➤855➤203➤2961 to verify availability and reserve a spot. Calling well in advance, ideally at the time of your own ticket booking, gives you the best chance of securing a pet spot. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 early because pet spots cannot be added once the flight's allocation is filled.

Only one pet carrier is allowed per passenger. If you have two pets and they cannot share a carrier, you need a second passenger's booking to carry the second pet. Couples traveling with two pets can each carry one. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and the agent coordinates pet reservations across multiple passengers on the same booking.

Can You Fly with a Pet on International Delta Flights?

Yes, in-cabin pets are accepted on many international Delta routes with a fee of approximately $200 each way. However, international pet travel involves significantly more paperwork and country-specific restrictions than domestic. Some countries have quarantine requirements, breed import bans, microchip standards, specific vaccination timelines, and import permit procedures that take weeks or months to complete. Not all international routes accept pets at all. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 at least 30-60 days before international departure to begin the documentation process for your destination.

Delta's international pet policy must comply with both US export regulations and the destination country's import regulations. Some countries like the UK, Australia, Japan, and Singapore have particularly strict pet import rules including extended quarantine periods. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and provide your exact destination country so the agent can confirm whether pets are accepted on your route and what documentation timeline you need to follow.

What Carrier Requirements Does Delta Have?

Delta requires in-cabin pet carriers to fit under the seat in front of you, be well-ventilated on at least two sides, have a waterproof bottom or absorbent liner, be secure with a zipper or latch that prevents escape, and allow the pet to stand, turn around, and lie down comfortably. Soft-sided carriers are strongly recommended because they compress slightly to fit under seats more easily than rigid carriers. Maximum dimensions vary by aircraft but are approximately 18x11x11 inches. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and provide your carrier's exact dimensions for verification against your specific aircraft type.

For Delta Cargo shipments, an IATA-approved hard-sided crate is required. The crate must be large enough for the animal to stand without touching the top, turn around fully, and lie down naturally. Food and water dishes must be attached inside and accessible from outside. The crate must have "Live Animal" labels and directional arrows. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for detailed cargo crate

specifications based on your pet's measurements.

What Happens If Your Pet Is Denied Boarding?

Delta may deny boarding to a pet if the carrier does not meet size requirements, health documentation is incomplete or expired, the pet appears ill or aggressive, the pet spot allocation for the flight is already full, or breed restrictions apply. If your pet is denied boarding, you face the choice of rebooking on a flight with pet availability, checking the pet through cargo if eligible, or arranging alternate pet transportation. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 before your trip to verify all requirements and prevent denial. A pre-trip confirmation call to +1➤855➤203➤2961 is the single best way to avoid day-of-travel surprises.

If denial is due to a Delta error such as a reservation system issue or incorrect information from an agent, Delta should accommodate you on the next available flight with pet space at no additional charge. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and reference your original pet reservation confirmation for resolution.

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Pet Travel Options at a Glance

Option	Animals Allowed	Fee	Key Requirements
In-cabin (under seat)	Small dogs, cats, household birds	$95 each way domestic	Carrier fits under seat (18x11x11 in approx)
Delta Cargo (checked cargo)	Dogs, cats (varies by breed)	Varies (cargo rates)	USDA health cert, IATA-approved crate
Service animal (trained)	Dogs only (task-trained)	$0 (no fee)	DOT forms 48 hrs before departure
International in-cabin	Small dogs, cats	$200 each way (varies by route)	Health cert, import permit varies by country
Emotional support animal	No longer accepted	N/A	Delta ended ESA policy Jan 2021
Snub-nosed breeds (brachy)	Restricted in cargo	May be denied cargo	Higher risk breed, cabin may be option
Military/govt working dogs	Trained service/ working dogs	$0 with orders	Military orders, handler docs

Connecting flight with pet	Same rules each segment	Per-segment fee applies	Call {ph} for multi-segment pet

How Does Delta Compare to Other Airlines for Pet Travel?

Policy	Delta	American	United	Southwest	Alaska	JetBlue
In-cabin fee	$95 each way	$150 each way	$125 each way	$125 each way	$100 each way	$125 each way
Cabin pet types	Dogs, cats, birds	Dogs, cats	Dogs, cats, rabbits	Dogs, cats	Dogs, cats, rabbits	Dogs, cats
Cargo pet service	Delta Cargo (separate)	AA cargo (separate)	PetSafe (separate)	Not available	Alaska cargo	Not available
In-cabin int'l	$200 (varies)	$150 (varies)	$125 (varies)	Domestic only	$100 (varies)	$150 (varies)
Carrier size (approx)	18x11x11 in	19x13x9 in	18x11x11 in	18.5x8.5x13.5	17x11x7.5 in	17x12.5x8.5
Pets per flight limit	Limited spots	Limited spots	Limited spots	6 per flight	Limited spots	Limited spots

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People Also Ask

Q: Can you bring a pet on a Delta flight?

Yes, small dogs, cats, and household birds can travel in the cabin under the seat in a carrier for $95 each way domestic. Larger pets can travel via Delta Cargo. Service dogs fly free with required DOT forms. Pet spots are limited per flight and require advance reservation by calling +1➤855➤203➤2961. Pet bookings cannot be made online. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 to reserve a spot.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: How much does Delta charge for pets?

In-cabin pets cost $95 each way domestic, $200 each way on most international routes. Delta Cargo rates vary by animal size, route, and crate. Service dogs are free. The pet fee is charged per carrier, not per animal, so two small pets in one carrier pay one fee if allowed. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for exact pricing on your route.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: How do you book a pet on Delta?

Pet reservations must be made by calling +1➤855➤203➤2961 because the online system cannot process pet bookings. Call at least 48 hours before departure. Provide your confirmation code, pet type, breed, weight, and carrier dimensions. The agent reserves one of the limited pet spots on your flight. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 as early as possible because spots fill quickly.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: What size carrier fits under the Delta seat?

Delta requires carriers to fit under the seat in front of you, approximately 18x11x11 inches for most aircraft. Soft-sided carriers that compress slightly are recommended. The carrier must allow the pet to stand, turn around, and lie down comfortably. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and the agent verifies the carrier size for your specific aircraft type.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: Does Delta allow emotional support animals?

No. Delta stopped accepting emotional support animals in January 2021, aligning with DOT rule changes. Only trained service dogs performing specific tasks for passengers with disabilities are accommodated at no charge. Psychiatric service dogs that are task-trained still qualify. All other animals must travel as pets with the standard fee. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for service dog documentation requirements.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: Can you bring a large dog on Delta?

Large dogs that do not fit in an under-seat carrier cannot fly in the cabin. They can travel via Delta Cargo in an IATA-approved crate with a USDA health certificate. Service dogs of any size fly in the cabin at no charge with required DOT documentation. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for Delta Cargo pet shipping rates and requirements for large dogs.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: What health documents do you need for a pet on Delta?

Domestic in-cabin: current vaccination records and health certificate from a veterinarian within 10 days of travel. International: USDA-endorsed health certificate, rabies vaccination, import permit from the destination country, and possibly microchip verification. Requirements vary by country. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 at least 30 days before international travel for country-specific documents.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: Are there breed restrictions for pets on Delta?

Delta restricts certain snub-nosed (brachycephalic) breeds from cargo travel due to respiratory risks at altitude, including Bulldogs, Pugs, Boston Terriers, and similar breeds. These breeds may still travel in-cabin if they fit in an approved carrier. Some destination countries have breed-specific import bans. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and provide your pet's breed for route-specific restrictions.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: In-cabin fee?

A: $95 domestic each way. $200 international varies. Per carrier. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 to reserve a pet spot.

Q: Book online?

A: No. Pet bookings require calling +1➤855➤203➤2961. Spots are limited per flight. Call early.

Q: Carrier size?

A: Approx 18x11x11 in. Must fit under seat. Soft-sided recommended. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for aircraft-specific size.

Q: ESA?

A: Not accepted since Jan 2021. Only trained service dogs fly free. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for service dog forms.

Q: Health docs?

A: Domestic: vet health cert within 10 days. International: USDA cert + country docs. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for requirements.

Q: Large dogs?

A: Cabin: no (must fit under seat). Cargo: yes via Delta Cargo. Service dogs: any size free. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961.

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Last updated: August 15, 2026 | Policy verified against delta.com/pets

Written by Travel Policy Research Team | Reviewed by Senior Aviation Editor

Sources: delta.com, USDA APHIS, U.S. DOT

This article is for informational purposes only. Always verify current policies directly with Delta Air Lines.